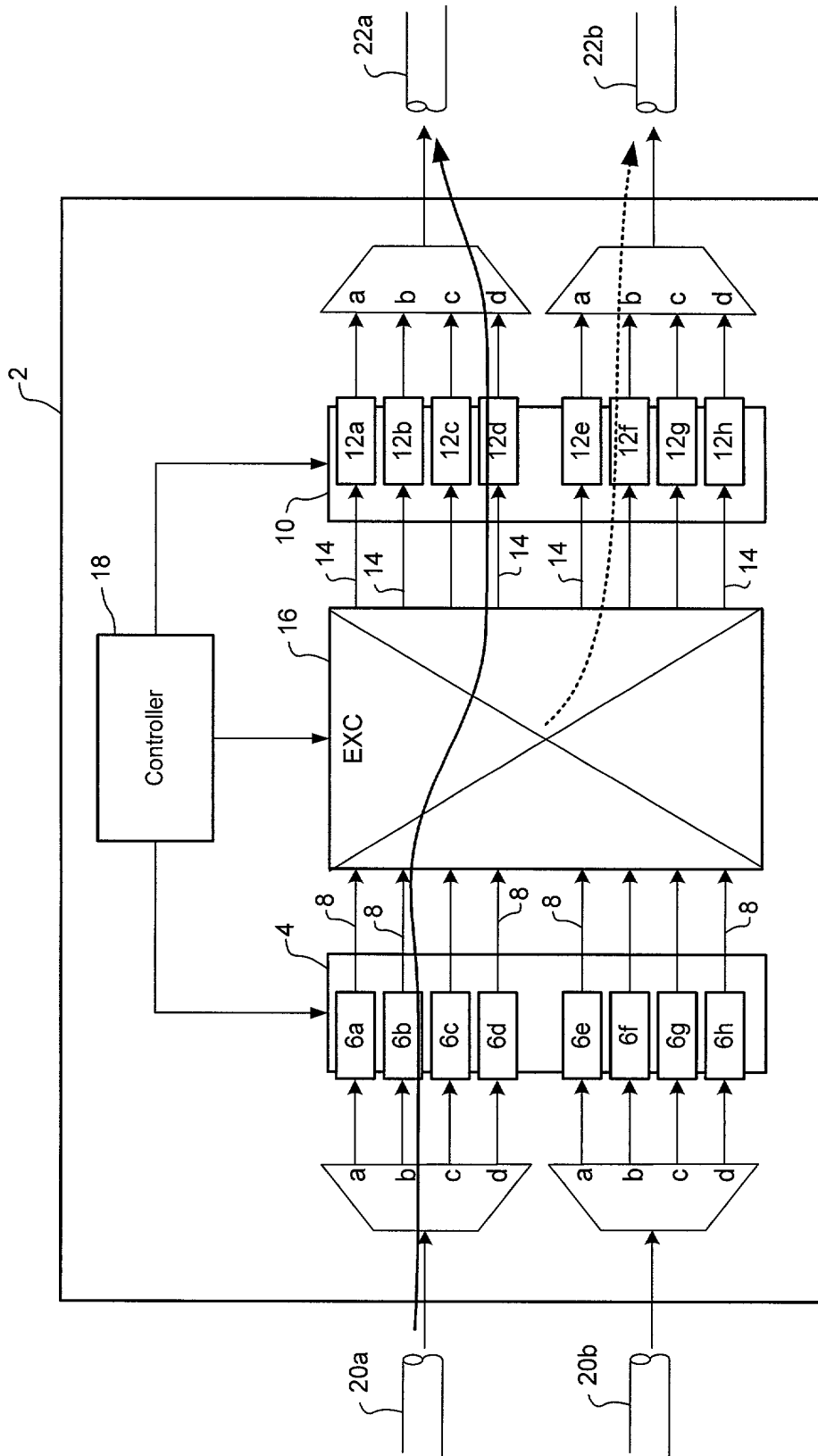


Figure 1
(Prior Art)



The diagram illustrates a multi-channel optical signal processing system. At the top, an **EXC** (Excitation) block is connected to a **Controller** (36). The Controller (36) also manages a **PXC** (Processing) block. The EXC block outputs multiple channels of signals, labeled 28a, 28b, 28c, ..., 28p, which are fed into a corresponding set of processing channels in the EO (Electro-Optic) block: EO-1, EO-2, EO-3, ..., EO-p. Each EO channel also receives a common control signal (cw) from the Controller (36), specifically labeled as EO-1 (cw=a), EO-2 (cw=b), EO-3 (cw=c), ..., EO-p (cw=?). The outputs of these channels are labeled 30a, 30b, 30c, ..., 30p. These signals are then processed by the PXC block, which also receives external inputs 8a, 8b, 8c, ..., 8h. The PXC block's outputs are labeled 14a, 14b, 14c, ..., 14h. The system includes several input/output ports: 20a and 20b at the top, and 22a and 22b at the bottom. A central processing unit (38) is shown within the EO block, receiving signals from the EXC block and the PXC block, and outputting signals to the EO channels. A dashed line (40) indicates a feedback or control path from the EO block back to the EXC block.